

Harbor Regional Center Policy Development of Living Options

Development of Living Options is a process consisting of:

1. assessing the need for specific types and levels of out-of-home living arrangements;
2. long and short term planning for the development of such services within Harbor Regional Center's service area;
3. accessing funds which might be available for this purpose; and
4. Implementing the plans which have been developed.

Harbor Regional Center recognizes that when a person with developmental disabilities chooses a living option other than his/her family home, several considerations are of critical importance:

1. the living option should provide him/her with optimal comfort and safety;
2. the living option should include quality care and supervision consistent with his/her need for same, or with appropriate services and supports when care and supervision are not needed;
3. the living option should be a typical home or apartment with few individuals residing there - unless the client chooses otherwise;
4. the living option should include opportunities to grow, learn and socialize with non-disabled members of the community;
5. the living option should offer reasonable access to his/her family and friends; and
6. if the client chooses a licensed home, the staff should demonstrate sensitivity to cultural differences by such accommodations as:
 - a. providing meals identified with the culture of the clients;
 - b. celebrating the cultural/religious holidays of the clients; and
 - c. providing opportunities for the clients to worship in the church/temple of their choice.
7. the living option should encourage client involvement and growth in as many aspects of life as possible.

Accordingly, Harbor Regional Center's design for the development of living options should follow the philosophical described above and should be guided by the following:

1. Harbor Regional Center will actively support the development of only those living options that meet or exceed the high standards of quality we consider essential for the support of people with developmental disabilities.
2. emphasis will be placed upon the development of supported living options and typical homes. Such homes should be located in typical residential neighborhoods with reasonable access to community resources offering opportunities for inclusion and participation with non-disabled citizens.
3. emphasis will also be placed on the development of affordable, permanent homes which may be owned by clients.
4. Harbor Regional Center will attempt to maintain the availability of a reasonable number of diverse types of living options to service a large variety of needs within our service area.
5. every possible effort will be made to avoid over- concentration of living options in any given geographic area.
6. Harbor Regional Center will encourage and cooperate in the intelligent and careful regional planning among neighboring regional centers in recognition of the fact that it may not be feasible to secure living options for every Harbor Regional Center client in our own service area.
7. Harbor Regional Center will continually review and reassess the status of its living option resources in relation to changing client needs and preferences. Based upon this review, a detailed resource development plan will be drafted at least annually.

Approved this 17th day of October 2000

Harbor Developmental Disabilities Foundation, Inc.